

The first-time homebuyer credit has nurtured a fragile housing market to better health in just 6 months. Even if you're not buying a house, you benefit because the housing market is one of the underpinnings of our entire economy and is the largest asset for families. So rebuilding the housing market helps us rebuild the economy.

As you can see, there are pending home sales. In this last chart you can clearly see that the tax credit is taking the housing market and America in the right direction. But this positive news will be threatened if we don't take action now. If it takes 60 days for a mortgage application to be processed, we are nearing the end by November 30. The tax credit is the foundation of the fragile housing market recovery that we are expecting to see across this country.

Now is not the time to mess with success. The homebuyer tax credit works, and it keeps it working by extending the program into the next year. The Congress should act immediately on this because the slow-down is just around the corner if we don't keep the tax credit there.

#### AMERICAN CREDIBILITY, POLAND AND MISSILE DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States Government plans to abandon our current missile defense plan in Europe. That will leave this country more vulnerable. Why would we want to do that? With Iran in a race to get the nuclear bomb and testing long-range missiles, America and Europe are at risk.

But the American Government decided to abandon the current missile defense shield to be installed in Poland and the accompanying radar system in the Czech Republic. This system was to protect Europe and the United States from a missile launch from Iran. The whole world knows that the little man from the desert, Ahmadinejad, is building nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles that could send nukes to the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. We have agreements with Poland and the Czech Republic for defensive missile systems. Don't we have an obligation to protect America from the threats of tyrants like Ahmadinejad? We should not break our word with our allies. America loses its credibility with our allies by failing to live up to our commitments.

Madam Speaker, America and Poland have a special relationship. This body just voted to grant honorary U.S. citizenship to Casimir Pulaski, the Father of the American Cavalry. He was born in Poland, and he was essential to our victory in the American War for Independence. Congress commissioned this Polish individual, Pulaski, as a brigadier general with the command of all the American Cavalry; and after training American troops for a year, Washington approved the formation of an independent corps of cavalry, and Pulaski's Legion became the training ground for American Cavalry officers like "Light Horse" Harry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee. Once a British officer called Pulaski's Legion simply, "the best damn cavalry the rebels ever had."

Then later, when World War II began, Hitler first invaded Poland. That happened 70 years ago this past September. Poland was occupied by the tyranny of Nazism. The horror that was Auschwitz was in Poland at a place where Jews, musicians, writers, Poles and other peoples died horrible deaths. There were many concentration camps in Poland, Auschwitz being the largest and most infamous of these extermination camps. Jews and others were worked to death. This policy was called the Vernichtung durch Arbeit, or as we say in English, the annihilation through work. My father was one of the Americans to liberate the concentration camps in Europe at the end of World War II. He was a teenager and still recounts the inhumane treatment of humans by tyrants.

As America celebrated the end of World War II in 1945, Poland then was occupied by the tyranny of communism and for decades the people of Poland lived under the tyrants of communism. So the Polish people understand more than anyone the terrors of living under tyranny. They have a special love for freedom and liberty, and they have a special love for America. Now Poland has partnered with the United States to put a missile defense system in their nation, and we must not desert them, Madam Speaker. They even stand with us in fighting terrorists in Afghanistan, and I got to meet numerous Polish soldiers at Camp Bagram in Afghanistan earlier this year. They are our friends and our partners and our allies. We stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight against the war on terror.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the Polish people in Poland earlier to discuss missile defense and other matters, and they are friends to America. They have shown their dedication to independence and loyalty to the United States since the American War for Independence. They heeded our call when we needed them with their General Pulaski, and we showed Poland our loyalty in World War II and the Cold War. Now, when liberty and freedom are in danger once more, it is unwise to abandon them and our missile defense system in Europe. After all, Madam Speaker, tyrants still roam the globe looking for the opportunity to snuff out freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ONE TEAM—ONE FIGHT—ONE NAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, in each Congress since 2001, I have introduced legislation aimed at giving the Marine Corps the recognition it deserves as one of the official branches of the military. This year I introduced H.R. 24, a bill to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. With much support, 309 Members of the House joined me in this effort. The language was passed earlier this year by the House as part of the House version of H.R. 2647, this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

I must say that I am very pleased and honored by the group of people that have supported this legislation. The Fleet Reserve Association, the VFW, the National Marine League and the Marine Corps Parents have been so busy urging their Senators to support this bill, and I want to thank them for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I have been contacted by many members of the Marine Corps and Navy that support this bill and agree that this is all about the fighting team, the team named the Navy and Marine Corps. In this year's conference with the Senate, I had a Senator say to me that he had never received a letter from a marine supporting this bill.

Madam Speaker, I would like to read you a letter that a former Marine Corps general wrote to this particular Senator at the beginning of this month: "I am writing to ask for your support in passing H.R. 24 and S.R. 501, which have been referred to the Committee on Armed Services and would redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps."

"For many years I have been an advocate of the Navy and Marine Corps team and believe this team is without parallel in any of the Armed Forces in the world. I proudly served alongside my Navy brothers-in-arms in both peace and conflict for 40 years. I would not recommend any action that I feel would belittle either partner of the team."

"Changing the name of the Department as proposed by this legislation would not demean the Navy, but would recognize marines as full partners in this team and would be a strong boost to their morale. In fact, the Department and the Secretary represent both services, the Navy and the Marine Corps, and this legislation would provide a name that mirrors the fact."

"Thank you for your consideration and for your continued and valuable service to our Nation."

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After 8 disappointing years, I hope one day the Senate will join me in supporting and bringing proper respect and acknowledgment to the fighting team of the Navy and Marine Corps. I want the supporters of this bill to